

but particularly toward those of our own family, that attitude of wishing their own welfare above our own. Of being willing to put up with the slights, of being willing to put up with the ~~many~~ inconveniences, to put up with the little things that are harder to bear often than the big things. To put up with these things. To pray God to make us more perfect through suffering. To enable us to bear these things so that it is not suffering but becomes a means of glorifying God and a means of showing forth the love of Christ.

The married life in which each partner is showing true love in seeking the welfare of the other even when in many ways it is unpleasant what they desire or what they do, that kind of love which God can develop in us gives us a joy and happiness in the end far beyond any mere thrill physical or emotional that we may experience in life.

Oh may God teach each of us to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and even to know the fellowship of sharing in His suffering. Every true Christian has to learn these three lessons and I believe God has much to teach each of us as we draw nearer to Christ and place Him like St. Peter and like Martin Luther did at the very center of our lives as we learn to realize in our lives this ambition that the Apostle Paul had. Let us pray.

Oh God our Father, we thank you for Paul. We thank you for his love for Christ. We thank you for St. Patrick and for the way you used him, and for the way that that great Irish church during the next 4 centuries sent missionaries to all of Europe. We thank you for them, and we thank you for M. Luther. We thank you for what M. Luther wrote that it was instrumental in leading John Bunyan to Christ, in leading John Wesley to Christ, in leading Charles Wesley to Christ, and for the continuing influence that M. Luther's stand for Christ and his wonderful expositions of the Scripture had in all those years. We thank you for those great Christians who have truly known Christ. We pray, our Father, that you will help us here not to merely know about Christ, important as that is but to know Him, to know the power of His resurrection and to be able to surmount whatever you desire us to surmount because we utilize that power and know the fellowship of sharing in His suffering and thus to develop in us these wonderful qualities, the fruit of the Spirit. We pray these things for each of us and for all other members of our institution here. We pray in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.